

Change Box interview

1. Could you introduce yourself in a few words?

My name is Laura Mustafi, I'm 23 years old and I've started my Master in Business Administration at the University of Fribourg in autumn 2017. Next to my studies, I work for the International Institute of Management in Technology (iimt), more precisely for ideas@iimt.

2. What is the idea behind the "Change Box"?

The core idea of the "Change Box" is to foster the innovative spirit of our university. We like to show that students are very creative. The "Change Box" is like a suggestion box, a physical box in which students and employees can throw in business ideas, descriptions of social and environmental innovation projects, or more general suggestions for campus-improvement. All in all, the idea behind the Change Box is about providing more opportunities to participate and integrate everyone on campus into an open exchange

The "Change Box" is a pilot project, which lasts from April to June 2018. After June we will stop collecting new ideas and evaluate the success of this project by metrics on the submissions, the further processing of ideas and finally the success. A campus-wide implementation of the Change Box in every building of the University of Fribourg is planned, if the evaluation at the end of the project indicates a corresponding success.



3. Why did you come up with the idea of the "Change box"?

"Change"-skills come too short. I thought it's important to give the students a start-up support for their ideas and to push them a little to realize those. With our Change Box team we aimed to find a medium, which allows expressing and sharing ideas in a simple way. As a result, the pilot project named "Change Box" was introduced. We are supported by the Innovation Club and ideas@iimt, a program which helps students to realise their innovative ideas through workshops, networking and financial support. For proposals concerning the campus, the Dean's Office is helping us as well.

4. What happens with the forms in the box?

First, we thank each participant for his participation in our project. Then, we try to evaluate whether the idea is meant serious and ask the participants whether they are interested in following their ideas. Afterwards we meet up together to discuss in detail how we could proceed with the idea. The further procedure is very individual and depends on the type of idea. Participants can be included in the ideas@iimt program or we help them to find the right contact person for their idea, but sometimes we have to find individual ways how to turn their ideas into reality.

5. And are there already some results?

So far there are around 20 serious ideas. Several forms were about more microwaves and power sockets in the building but also about more green areas and flowers in the front of our university. There were some business ideas as well, but we have to evaluate whether they meet the criteria to be included in the ideas@iimt program.

Read more on their website and express your ideas by writing them down!

www.change-box.ch